



STATE SENATOR

**JEFF  
DROZDA**

INDIANA STATEHOUSE  
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

[www.in.gov/S21](http://www.in.gov/S21)

Prst Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 7767

*Contact Me:*

CALL, TOLL-FREE:  
1-800-382-9467  
OR (317)232-9400

E-MAIL ME AT:  
S21@IN.GOV

## Drozda Keeps Working in Summer

**Senator appointed to 2006 interim study committee; 2005 committee work successful**

In early July, Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton (R-Columbus) appointed me to the **Interim Study Committee on Government Administration and Regulatory Matters**.

Legislators form commissions, study committees and advisory boards to examine issues in detail and to give more focused attention to particular issues not addressed during the legislative session.

The duties of the Interim Study Committee on Government Administration and Regulatory Matters include monitoring and reporting on the impact of the privatization of non-health related services performed or administered by state agencies. In addition, the committee will research license branch operations and eminent domain issues.

Last summer, I was a member of the Eminent Domain Study Committee that examined Indiana's property rights laws to see how they could be improved. Many of their conclusions

were passed in House Enrolled Act 1010 (2006).

Perhaps most importantly, the new law requires the reason for using eminent domain be something that benefits the public. Thus, eminent domain can be used for a legitimate government purpose — but not simply to increase a local government's tax base.

**For more information, visit  
[www.in.gov/legislative/interim](http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim)**

**The proposed new law does several other things, including placing time restrictions on eminent domain so that property owners are not left in limbo for years at a time, requiring just compensation for Hoosier property owners, and mandating good-faith negotiations between the condemner and the property owner.**

The law also includes language that takes away eminent domain powers from private

cemeteries and would require libraries to first seek permission from their local governing bodies, such as a city council or township board, before using eminent domain. I worked to amend the library language into the law after I was contacted by constituents concerned about Kokomo-Howard County Library possibly seizing land from the Sycamore Reformed Presbyterian Church.

I will also be serving on the Workforce Innovation Council, which acts as the state's advisory body under several federal laws dealing with workforce investment and training. The council also advises the governor on coordinating services under state and local education and training programs and makes recommendations concerning Indiana's workforce needs and the human resource system in Indiana.

Education is the key to bringing more high paying jobs to Hoosiers. We must do everything we can to ensure our workforce is trained and educated in a variety of fields giving them the competitive edge to succeed.



# INFORMATION & NEWS *from the* Indiana Senate



STATE SENATOR  
**JEFF  
DROZDA**

**Serving District 21 in Boone, Hamilton  
Howard and Tipton Counties**





Four of Senator Drozda's five children are pictured from left to right: Elizabeth, Nicholas, Marie and Colette. Baby Angelica (not pictured)

### Did You Know?

... that because of a balanced budget passed by the General Assembly, the governor has pledged to repay all delayed payments to schools in our Senate district.

This includes:

- Eastern Howard School Corp: \$210,802
- Kokomo-Center School Corp: \$997,495
- Marion-Adams School Corp: \$176,821
- Northern Community School Corp: \$168,688
- Northwestern School Corp: \$193,316
- Taylor Community School Corp: \$249,906
- Tipton Community School Corp: \$256,314
- Westfield Community School Corp: \$555,396
- Zionsville Community School Corp: \$553,367

## Education Top Priority for 2007

**Need to focus on academics, not more regulations**

As a member of the Senate Committee on Education, I authored a bill this past session that would have provided more flexibility for schools to focus on learning.

Senate Bill 324 removed some of the burdensome regulatory requirements that schools currently face, which would allow them more time to focus on improving academics and less on filling out state mandated reports.

The bill passed the Senate but failed to pass in the House of Representatives.

A few of the changes included removing the requirement for attendance officers when school administrators can assume the duties; allowing payment of skilled maintenance workers from the school's capital projects fund; and increasing the cost of public works projects subject to the bidding process.

The bill also required a thorough review of all state and federal statutes, rules and policies to determine which restrict the ability of schools to develop innovative approaches to student achievement and to maximize resources for student learning.

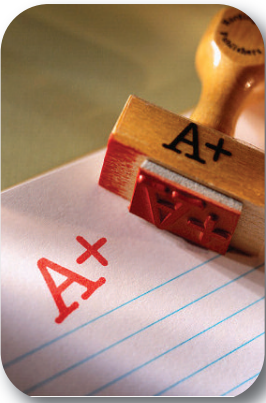
My proposal would have given school cor-

porations the ability to declare themselves to be "deregulated." This would have allowed them to waive certain statutes, rules and policies they feel do not add value to classroom instruction.

Schools would still remain accountable for student achievement, fiscal responsibility, student health and safety, public reporting and other specified obligations.

I am committed to introducing this legislation again in 2007. A heavy focus on academics and classroom instruction is imperative to strengthening Indiana's education system in order to give Hoosier children the best possible start in life.

**This can only be done by providing more flexibility and power to local school districts, not state bureaucrats.**



## Fighting Crime with DNA Database

**All felons now required to provide DNA samples**

A state law passed in 2005 recently went into effect, requiring anyone convicted of a felony in Indiana to give DNA samples at county probation offices.

This requirement will take repeat offenders off the street more quickly to reduce the incidence of violent crimes and to help solve "cold cases".

The samples will build up the state's DNA data bank, which the Department of Corrections may access for analysis at any time to help solve old crimes. In 2004, the Indiana State Police said 143 cold case investigations were aided because of DNA sampling.

Even obtaining samples from nonviolent felons can help. In Virginia, for example, DNA samples taken from people convicted of for-

gery have led to 47 cold hits that included burglaries, sex offenses and homicides.

This past session we also enacted a new law that provides an exception to the five-year statute of limitations for Class B, C and D felonies when the DNA analysis provides evidence sufficient to charge a person with an offense. Previously the exception only applied when DNA analysis allowed for the discovery of the offender's identity.

I believe we must do everything we can to make sure criminals are off our streets. By banking DNA samples of even non-violent offenders, we can save lives. It is my hope that many heartbroken families can be assured that the person who committed the crime against a loved one is behind bars.

## Drozda Demands Mandatory Sentencing for Violent Sex Offenders

According to a report from the Department of Corrections, **child predators who were released from prison in 2005 served only 19 to 30 percent of their original imposed sentences**, depending on the specific felony. This is unacceptable.

I am committed to passing legislation that forces child predators to serve their entire sentences.

Indiana's good-time credit system allows convicted offenders to earn a day of credit for every day they serve (Time Class I), which requires them to serve only half of their sentences. I believe this outdated system allows too many violent offenders back on our streets. **We must ensure that if they do the crime, they do the time.**

Indiana is one of only four states that have 50 percent good-time requirements. The federal government and numerous states requires inmates to serve 85 percent of their sentences.

Countless studies have shown that sex offenders are four times more likely than non-sex of-

fenders to be arrested for another sex crime after being discharged from prison. We have an obligation to the children of Indiana to make sure these offenders serve the maximum time behind bars.

I am authoring a bill for the 2007 legislative session that will do the following:

- Create a crime for harboring a sex offender and makes it punishable as a non-suspendible Class D felony
- Enhance penalties for Child Solicitation from Class D felony to Class C non-suspendible sentence
- Enhance penalties for Child Exploitation from Class C felony to Class B non-suspendible sentence
- Enhance penalties for Possession of Child Pornography from Class D felony to Class C non-suspendible sentence
- Clarify the definition of "Conspiracy to Commit Child Molestation" by adding "even if person believes the child is under 18"
- Require Child Protective Services to forward cases to prosecutors when victim is under 12 and offenders is over 14



Sen. Drozda speaks at a news conference with Ed Smart, founder of the "AMBER Alert" movement inspired by his daughter Elizabeth's abduction and eventual return.

- Require first-time offenders for Possession of Child Pornography to register as a sex offender

Indiana made several important strides toward protecting our children this year, but the battle against child predators is far from over. Harsher penalties hopefully will serve as a deterrent to these despicable crimes. At the very least, sex offenders need to be kept out of society.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET

**Parents Need to Keep Watchful Eye**

The Internet is more accessible than ever before. Children and teenagers are now afforded the opportunity to not only conduct research information via the World Wide Web, but can connect with friends via chat rooms and social networking web sites. With just the click of a mouse button, children are instantly connected to millions of other individuals, both friends and strangers.

Unfortunately, there are still a fair number of sexual predators who continue to prey on the innocence of children. The convenience of the internet makes it easier than ever before for sexual predators to seek out their next victim. **In fact, according to the Crimes Against Children Research Center, one in five youth who regularly uses the internet receives a sexual solicitation.**

Popular sites such as Facebook.com and MySpace.com are two of the internet's most popular social networking hubs where internet users can post pictures and profiles of themselves for other users to see. Users can then request one another as "friends" and contact may be made through email and instant messaging.

While no child is immune to the threat of internet predators, there are steps parents can take to help reduce the risk of their children being targeted. Not all of these tips will work for every family, but they are suggestions that some parents may want to consider.

- Talk to your child about the potential **dangers** of the internet. Have them show you their favorite websites and maintain access to your child's online account. Routinely check his/her **email**. Let your child know you are monitoring their email for his/her own protection.



- Keep the computer in a **common room** in the home. Don't allow the child to have a computer in his/her bedroom where they may be online without **direct supervision**.

- Several software companies offer programs with **parental controls**. This allows parents to block websites where online predators may be lurking. While this software may be expensive depending on the company, many internet service providers offer these blocking programs to their members for free, or for a minimal charge.

Approximately 75 percent of America's youth between the ages of 12-17 have regular access to the Internet. According to Yahoo.com, teenagers spend, on average, 16 hours a week online. That adds up to more than two hours a day! If we want to protect our children from the risk of being solicited online, every precaution must be taken to assure the Internet is safe to use.